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NETWORK

GLBT INFORMATION
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1998

VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

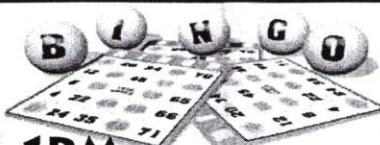
VOL. 12 NO. 9

NOVEMBER 2009

FACT

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 15, 1PM

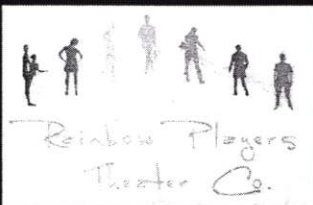
HOSTED BY SYLVIA SILVERBERG, DOORS OPEN
AT 11:00AM. GAMES BOOKS \$15.00 WITH BONUS
CARDS AVAILABLE -- RAINBOW ROOM BINGO HALL
2413 SUNSHINE ROAD, ALLENTOWN, PA 18103
BYOB, ATM & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



MORAVIAN COLLEGE REMOVES SEXUAL ORIENTATION GENDER IDENTITY FROM ITS NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

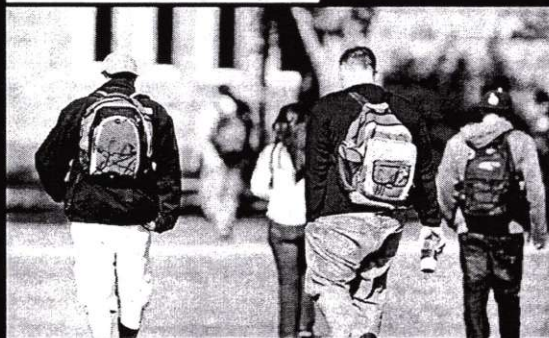
Read what we're doing about it on page 2

PLEASE PAY YOUR PDN DUES!



930 North 4th Street
1st Floor
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Proudly Presents



blue sweater

an original play written and directed by
Bradford Zuercher

Friday, November 20th at 8 pm

Saturday, November 21st at 2 pm and 7 pm

Matinee proceeds benefit Allentown Public Theatre

Tickets \$15 PER PERSON

\$8 FOR STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS

For More Information Call 718-664-3713

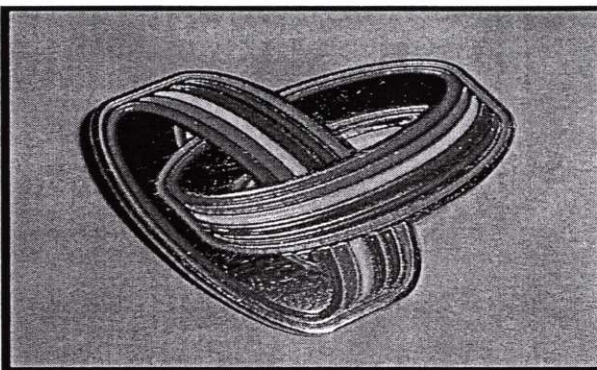
email: rainbow.players@mcciv.org • rainbowplayers.mcciv.org/index.htm

Located within the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

LEHIGH VALLEY GAY MEN'S CHORUS:
16TH SEASON HOLIDAY CONCERT FRUITCAKE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 8PM
AT WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Read about it on page 3

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO WORK FOR RIGHT!



Freedom to Marry Events in Harrisburg

VOLUNTEER TO WORK FOR EQUALITY FEB 6 TO 14 -- EVENTS IN HARRISBURG

PDN was contacted by people after the March for Equality on Oct 11, who want a chance to work for GLBT rights: WELL HERE IT IS

Bolton Winnpenny, PA Diversity Network's Harrisburg activist, is working with other groups in planning a major pro-GLBT week long rights effort at the Capitol during Freedom to Marry week February 6 through 14.

Please take the day off and volunteer for the special activist day Monday, February 8, to visit members of the legislature, take part in the press conference, and view the entire PA Diversity Phot Project- 400 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality - that will be on display in the Capitol Rotunda for the entire week and then join in the marriage rights RALLY after that.

Call us at 610-432-5449 for other volunteer opportunities during that week. You can read about the entire week of events at special web site: <http://FreedomToMarryPA.org>

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

LIZ OUT LOUD

By Liz Bradbury

MORAVIAN REMOVES PROTECTIONS



Moravian College's non-discrimination policy has been a problem for a long time. Like all the other Lehigh Valley colleges, it contained the group of protected classes that Moravian protects from discrimination and the list included the term sexual orientation. But the long time problem with Moravian's statement was that it qualified the protections by saying "in compliance with State and Federal Law." As we all know, there is no State or Federal law that protects us from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. And unlike Allentown, Easton, and Reading; Bethlehem does not have any municipal non-discrimination law. So based on the language of Moravian's policy; gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students, faculty and staff were not technically protected from employment or institutional discrimination at the College.

But it gets worse. Recently Moravian's nondiscrimination policy was... "simplified" and all the protected classes were removed from the statement, including sexual orientation. Now the policy reads like a far right religious school, with one of those statements that says only -- "We embrace and value diversity," and then goes on to say that Moravian complies with non-discrimination law. (note: Moravian does not identify itself as a religious mission driven college, so they can't use that excuse for anti-gay action.)

First I called the PR department and spoke to the Mike Wilson. I said I was writing an article on Moravian's recent decision to remove sexual orientation from its non-discrimination policy, and would he like to comment on whether this was a conscious decision or a simple mistake. His reply was a nervous, "Um, I didn't realize we had done this. I'll have to get back to you." I gave him a week, and he didn't call me.

So this morning I called the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Dean of Students and left a message - I added in the message that Moravian was the only Lehigh Valley College that didn't have protections for its GLBT students, faculty, and staff in its non-discrimination policy. Soon, Mike Wilson called me back. He said: "Right now there is no immediate effort to change this policy." I told him I'd quote him. He also said that the current policy was worked on by administrators and lawyers who thought it was, "more inclusive."

I pointed out that those who crafted this policy are either unclear on how non-discrimination policies work or...are raging homophobes. Then I fully explained why this policy was not inclusive and that all LV colleges have policies (and indeed 96% of all US private colleges) have policies that include S.O. I also said that Moravian's choices could make national headlines and would certainly make VGP headlines.

Soon, Mr. Wilson called me again. This time he said that Moravian would consider another more inclusive policy, and asked that I send him one. So I sent them a copy and the URL of Lehigh University's policy - which is extremely clear and fully inclusive of S.O. and G.I.

PA Diversity Network has worked on issues like this in the past (St. Luke's was one and we got them to add S.O. back in). See what happens in the next few weeks in part two of "Moravian College Removes Protections," in the December Valley Gay Press. And if you are a Moravian alumni or employee, please call me - 610-432-5449.

To see both Moravian's and Lehigh's non-discrimination policies, and 14 other college policies, go to: <http://www.padiversity.org/page149.html> Note: This is just one little example that we can never take our rights for granted. We must always be vigilant.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham will extend health insurance benefits to same-sex partners beginning Jan. 1 in a move officials said was designed in part to help it compete with top medical schools when recruiting faculty. It is the largest employer in Alabama.

Dale Turnbough, a UAB spokeswoman, said the change was made "to create a positive, supportive and diverse work environment," and to help the school compete for new faculty with other National Institute of Health-funded medical schools. Most top medical schools, including Vanderbilt, Duke and Johns Hopkins, offer such benefits." Cont' on Page 11

TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION SHOULD NOT BE DECIDED BY POPULAR VOTE



Referendum, or "the peoples veto", is a vote of popular opinion. While it sounds as if it empowers the people, it allows our elected officials to abdicate their responsibility and avoid taking a controversial position even if it is in the best interest of the people they represent. When laws are implemented through referendum, no elected official can be held responsible for the result. Peoples' vetoes are also often driven by emotional voters who are disproportionately influenced by personal opinion and interpretations of beliefs that represent their churches and other religious institutions.

Civil rights legislation in particular should never be subject to a peoples' veto because civil rights legislation is always about the treatment of a minority. A Louisiana Justice of the Peace refused to issue a marriage license to an interracial couple just this week. While this is clearly a miscarriage of justice, the simple fact is that when civil rights are allowed to be the subject of local public opinion the outcome for minority community members is frequently negative. The motivation to deny marriage rights to minority community members in the USA is largely influenced by churches and religious institutions and despite the separation of church and state clause of our Constitution, religious zealots have been able to reverse our legislatively gained legal rights using institutional financial resources and the popular vote.

Now, three GLBT civil rights laws enacted this year are already on November ballots, subject to the people's veto.

Kalamazoo, Michigan - Ordinance no. 1856 asks voters, yes-or-no, whether the city's gay-rights ordinance enacted in June should take effect. The ordinance would make it illegal to discriminate based on gender identity and sexual orientation in employment, housing, and access to public accommodations.

Washington State's limited domestic partnership rights were expanded in May to grant all remaining state benefits to domestic partners in the "everything but marriage" law. But Washington State Ref. 71 will allow a popular vote to determine if these rights will not be implemented.

Maine, the first state to the sign into law a same-sex marriage bill that was legislated and not the result of a court decision, faces a peoples' veto. The ballot question reads: "Do you want to reject the new law that lets same-sex couples marry and allows individuals and religious groups to refuse to perform these marriages?" A "yes" vote is a vote to reject the same-sex marriage law. "No on 1" is a vote to keep the law.

A peoples' veto forces minority communities to spend personal and political capital educating voters that our families have the same basic needs and commitment to each other and our communities, as everyone else, and hence deserve the same rights. I'm really proud of the people in our community, especially our Photo Project couples and Rainbow Families members, who put themselves forward everyday as real life examples of who we are and how our families are discriminated against. I encourage every GLBT person and every ally to use information about these three ballot issues to generate discussion with and to educate your friends, relatives and neighbors to our lack of civil rights in PA. The fight in these communities is our fight and each one of us need to start actively participating today.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uucvpa.org/haven.

HAVEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

HAVEN needs your help. HAVEN is the LV's only LGBT social and support group for teens ages 14 to 20. Haven needs adult volunteers to facilitate weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings in Bethlehem. Facilitators should enjoy working with teens, and should have an ability to deal with LGBT youth in an appropriate and mature way, as demonstrated by years of life, job, or educational experience. Commitment is one Wednesday night per month. Criminal/child abuse background checks required. Training provided by HAVEN. Pls contact Pete Pellegrino, peterp10@ptd.net, 610-967-1654.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The autumn schedule is now in effect.

Tennis: Sundays at 3:00pm at the Parkland High School courts on Cedar Crest Blvd. **Volleyball:** Thursdays at 6:30pm at West Catasauqua Playground, 2301 Pine St., Whitehall. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Tuesday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus 16th season Holiday Concert "Fruitcake" Saturday, November 21, 8pm Wesley United Methodist Church, 2450 Center St. Bethlehem & Sunday November 22, 4pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 5th and Linden Sts, Allentown. Tickets: \$15 Adults/Seniors & \$10 students. Reception at each concert. To donate to the silent auction or pre-order tickets please call 1-800-348-2813 or e-mail: information@lvgmc.org

READING PRIDE

Reading Pride Celebration will be hosting a reception marking Reading City Council's inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the Human Relations Ordinance for the City of Reading. Please check at www.readingpridecelebration.org on the NEWS page for details.

Reading Pride Celebrations meetings are held the third Monday of the month at Canal Street Pub in Reading at 7:00 PM.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month. Jerry Makos, the new GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Jerry at jerry_makos@hotmail.com.

Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears social group meets at the Stonewall, 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moosehead. Bears and bear admirers are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears> See a Bears definition at PDN's web site.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd fl, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

GLORA

GLORA-The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown GLORA@dejazzd.com - <http://glora.1colony.com> GLORA is a social group that produces a regular newsletter for members.

Sunday December 6 -- Longwood Gardens Christmas Display -- Always fun going to Longwood Gardens for their Christmas Display. Tickets are \$16 or \$14 for seniors (62 or over) Car pool from Nels house, leaving at 1:00PM. Call RSVP at (610) 754-7144.

Saturday December 19 -- GLORA anniversary dinner, pot luck / open house format. RSVP to (610) 375-7680 or if you need directions.

Thursday December 31 -- New Year's Eve Party!!! Meet at 8:00 pm and bring a dish to share. Call (610) 432-9172 to RSVP.

PASTOR BETH GOUDY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, November 28, 2009, from 6:00-9:00 PM, MCCLV will celebrate Pastor Beth's 10-year anniversary! The night will include a pizza party, a children's variety show, and fellowship. So mark your calendar and plan on joining MCCLV on the 28th.

Please contact the Children & Youth coordinator Sue Carpenter, at children.youth@mcclv.org or the Children's Choir director Stephanie Schaffer at children.choir@mcclv.org for more information.

LESBIAN AUTHORS NELL STARK & TRINITY TAM TO READ AT MUHLBERG

Nell Stark (award winning author of lesbian fiction) and Trinity Tam to come to Muhlenberg College, Thursday, November 12, 7pm, Seeger's Union, room 113. They will read from their latest book that has just come out in October, "Everafter."

RAINBOW YOUTH NORTHEAST PA GROUP MEETINGS IN THE STOURDSBURG & MILFORD PA AREAS FOR INFORMATION AND GROUP MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

EMAIL: RAINBOWYOUTH@HOTMAIL.COM



Happy Birthday!

GENTLEMEN OF BERKS & 3RD & 4TH QUARTER BIRTHDAY

DINNER Gobab is celebrating this quarter's dinner on Saturday Nov. 14, 2009 at VIVA BISTRO & LOUNGE in Wyomissing. Please RSVP by NOVEMBER 4, 2009 if you plan to attend at "4th Qtr B-Boyz" @ gobabevents@yahoo.com www.gobab.org

VISION OF HOPE MCC IN READING

Metropolitan Community Church - Vision of Hope (based in Lancaster) offers Bible Study in the Reading, PA area at Quaker Meeting House 108 N. 6th St. Reading, 7pm on the following Tuesdays: 11/10 & 11/28, 12/8 & 12/22, 1/12/10 & 1/26/2010, 2/9/10 & 2/23/10, 3/9/10 & 3/23/10. For information: Rev. Deb Coggin - (717) 682-1873, vohpastordeb@verizon.net. Vision of Hope also has social

GRACE UCC IN LANCASTER

Grace United Church of Christ at 1947 New Holland Pike in Lancaster is fully inclusive of the GLBT community. Contact 717-397-1012, email graceucclanaster@comcast.net or see gracechurchlanaster.org.

ALL SOULS ECUMENICAL CHURCH



All Souls, celebrates the Feast of All Saints and All Souls on November 1st. The Holy Eucharist will include a special remembrance of those who have died. All Souls is an inclusive and welcoming church with a primary outreach to the GLBT community. The church worships in the chapel at 640 Centre Ave. Reading, PA. For more information: 610-621-1738 or on the web at www.allsoulssecumenical.org

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

PFLAG meeting dates for 2009:
Allentown: 11/3, 12/1 Reading: 11/17 (no December meeting) Monroe Meetings held 1st Wednesdays, monthly at Hughes Library in Stroudsburg 7pm to 9pm in the boardroom. Dates: 11/4, 12/2.

UUF OF THE POCONOS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Poconos, a welcoming congregation, is sponsoring a legislative writing/wine & cheese party in support of LBGT equality issues on Sunday, November 15th at 12 noon at UUFF (940A Ann Street, Stroudsburg; diagonally across from the front door of American Ribbon). RSVP to hillberry2001@yahoo.com.

CENTRAL PA BOOK CLUB

November meeting, Sunday the 15th, 5pm - 7pm at The Midtown Scholar Bookstore, to discuss "Invisible Life," by recently deceased seminal African American gay author E. Lynn Harris. Sponsored by the region's LGBT Community Center, (clubs meet in Harrisburg, York, Lititz)

GLBT SUPPORT GROUP BERKS COUNTY

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

RACC GSA

Reading Area Community College's Gay/Straight Alliance. Open to all current RACC students. For room location call Kym Kleinsmith: 610-372-4721 x5265. Please join the group and help move RACC's GSA forward!

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

The SPECTRUM offers education, peer support, positive role models & recreation for LGBTQA youth in Berks County. Meetings: Wednesday evenings, 2nd floor, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading. Questions? Call 610-376-0137 or visit http://www.myspace.com/LGBTQPP. To volunteer, contact (Amber Brown, Senior Community Educator/SPECTRUM facilitator) at abrown@PlantPA.org.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

Nationally syndicated SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Many thanks to Nicole! See more Sylvia cartoons at the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

Historical Gender Chats



SOOZ VIEWS⁵

By Sue Sneeringer

INCREMENTAL SUCCESS?

There's been a lot of talk lately about when promises are going to be kept that were made by the Obama Administration during the campaign and, of course, there are several of importance to the GLBT community. I was one who wondered why another march on the capital was necessary but in the wake of recent commentary from both sides, especially regarding "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and marriage equality, I backed the march wholeheartedly. I was also pleased earlier this year when GLBT activists raised a fuss around a pricey Human Rights Campaign dinner and managed to encourage some big names and big donors to stay away as a means of relaying the message that we are DONE waiting for equality and that if politicians take the GLBT vote for granted, they do so at their own risk.

Some of our loudest, strongest voices in the media, Signorile and Sullivan prominent among them, also spoke for me when they took Joe Solmonese (Human Rights Campaign) to task for saying that those present at a more recent HRC dinner were more politically savvy, had a better sense of what's at stake and what needs to be done...than those of us out here in, what, the real world? (An hour or more outside the beltway, in other words.)

The issue of diversity within our own community still needs some reckoning, to say the least, and Solmonese put his foot in his mouth big time, especially as the HRC is perceived by many (including me...) to be a bunch of rich, white guys content to play the D.C. cocktail party / lobbying / PAC game, whether it advances our cause or not. The HRC plays both ends against the middle as a strategy and I think the organization needs to grow a set, frankly, and I've always thought so.

This week's "Real Time With Bill Maher" featured the fatuous Chris Matthews suggesting that our community was looking for "instant gratification" in expecting the President to dismantle "DADT" too quickly (to be fair, he meant the term for any Obama voters who were expecting bad policies to be undone overnight). Now, it's hard to take Matthews seriously when he weaves across both lanes of opinion traffic so wantonly and shoots from the hip with a flair not seen since Annie Oakley but he's got an audience, too, and should know by now that we have waited FAR TOO LONG for the undoing of a policy that should never have been enacted in the first place! Instant gratification? How about lead from your bully pulpit, Mr. President? Stand there as a beacon of light for change and right this wrong, Mr. President? How about standing up for the people who wish to serve same as you do, MR. PRESIDENT?!!

We are told (with the intention of pacify, of course...) that all will be achieved in due course. But we know a lot about "incremental success" and "biding our time." We need to keep the pressure on, both within the community and without. Or we will see yet another administration come and go that assumes by our acquiescence that we are only worthy of the crumbs anyway.

Photo by Steve Ziminsky



Anne Crothers who accepted the award for Sharon Smith Award Winner Kathleen Kapila, AHR Commissioner Janet Ney Award Winner Dave Moyer, Barb Baus representing Award Winner MCC Helping Hands Ministry

ALLENTOWN HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS BANQUET

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK YOUTH INITIATIVE

The PA Diversity Network Youth Initiative serves as a financial resource for special projects undertaken by Lehigh Valley and Berks County LGBT youth organizations.

Groups may request up to \$200 per program – but must make the request at least 3 weeks prior to the event.. K-12 public or private school groups, religiously affiliated, and independent groups are limited to two grants per year. College groups are limited to one grant per semester.

At the end of the program, the group is required to submit an After Action Report to the PA Diversity Network Youth Initiative.

Eligibility requirements:

Group must be based in Lehigh Valley or Berks County, PA. Group must be youth led and serve populations under age 25.

Projects that will be funded must fit the following criteria:

The project must be youth-led.

Grant request must be filled out by a youth leader.

Project must focus on advancing equality and justice to the LGBT Community. Project must serve an educational and/or advocacy purpose to those outside of the grantee.

How to apply:

Email a one-page description of the project your organization would like funded to: info@padiversity.org

Don't forget to include:

date of the project
project goals and objectives
primary contact for project
who will benefit from the project
what the money will be used for

Selection Committee: Adrian Shanker, Chair, Chris Alvaro, Alanna Berger, Liz Bradbury, Jeff Faller

A NEW CIVIC SEASON! FOUR

A Christmas Carol: the 20th Anniv. Production!

(Dec. '09)

Little Shop of Horrors: (Feb/Mar 2010)

RENT: (May 2010)

Season subscriptions are on sale, August 10. Single tickets on sale September 8. Online ticketing returns this season; details soon to come!



PDN'S WOMEN'S 5K RACE TEAM AT THE TEAM BREAKFAST - SEE WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

6 CALENDAR

All Souls Ecumenical Churchworships every Sunday, 640 Centre St Reading, 610-621-1738 www.allsouls-ecumenical.org
Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, **AIDS WALK**-see **FACT**
BGMMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>
CUUPS --at the UUCLV. uucv_cuups@yahoo.com
Dignity - "GLBT-friendly ministry for Catholics and their friends"- meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 pm. DignityLHV.blogspot.com Dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com
Enigma Players-- qacres@prolog.net
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
Gay Matter Magazine--
GLEE at Air Products
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org info@gloss.org
GLOB-at PPL
GOBAB - Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond http://www.myspace.com/_gobab http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen_of_berks PO box 13592, Reading, PA 19612, 610-670-4483,
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com
Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net
Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org
INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com 610-866-7652.
Kutztown Univ GLBT Radio show "Making Waves," w/ Jason Lincoln Tuesdays 4pm -6pm in town: 88.3 FM, 1670 AM. In Eastern Berks: Serv Elec Cable 24 or Hometown Utilicom: 41. Streaming on-line everywhere at <http://kur.kutztown.edu>
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 1-800-348-2813, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com
LV Transmen - 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com
MMCLV - Metropolitan Community Church, Lehigh Valley, 930 N 4th St., Allentown Services: 10:30am info@mmclv.org, <http://www.mmclv.org> 610-709-8800
Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296
19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

NOVEMBER 2009 VOTE! on the 3rd

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC Gloss Tennis	2 RAA SC	3 GLOSS RAC Election Day	4 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM	5 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	6 Dracula Touchstone	7 BEARS GLOSS RAC MCC Tricky Tray
8 MCC Gloss Tennis	9 RAA	10 LVGMC GLOSS RAC	11 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM	12 RAA GLOSS V-Ball Muhl Book	13 GLOSS Bowling Dracula Touchstone	14 WDIY GLOSS RAC GOBAB
15 FACT BINGO UUE	16 SC RAA Reading Pride MTG	17 LVGMC R PFLAG GLOSS RAC	18 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	19 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	20 RAINBOW Players	21 LVGMC GLOSS RAC
22 UUCLV GLOSS MCC Interweave	23 RAA	24 LVGMC GLOSS RAC	25 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	26 RAA GLOSS V-Ball B PFLAG P PFLAG	27	28 MCCLV WDIY GLOSS RAC
29 AllSouls UUCLV GLOSS MCC GLOSS Tennis	30 RAA	GLOSS RAC LVGMC	HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	GLOSS V-Ball RAA MCC 20-30		WDIY GLOSS RAC

DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LOSS Tennis		1 GLOSS RAC LVGMC LV PFLAG	2 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	3 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	4	5 GLOSS RAC WDIY BEARS
6 GLOSS Tennis MCC Gloss Tennis	7 RAA SC	8 GLOSS RAC LVGMC	9 FW-WDIY SPECTRUM HAVEN	10 GLOSS V-Ball RAA	11 GLOSS Bowling	12 GLOSS RAC REN WDIY
13 AllSouls UUCLV GLOSS MCC GLOSS Tennis	14 RAA	15 GLOSS RAC LVGMC R PFLAG	16 M PFLAG FW-WDIY SPECTRUM HAVEN	17 RAA B PFLAG GLOSS V-Ball P PFLAG	18	19 GLORA GLOSS RAC WDIY
20 MCC Interweave GLOSS Tennis WDIY UUCLV	21 Reading Pride MTG SC RAA	22 GLOSS RAC LVGMC	23 SPECTRUM FW-WDIY HAVEN	24 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	25	26 WDIY GLOSS RAC
27 MCC WDIY UUCLV LOSS Tennis	28 RAA	29 LVGMC	30 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM	31 MCC 20-30 GLORA		

JANUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WDIY BEARS GLOSS RAC
3 GLOSS Gloss Tennis MCC AllSouls	4 RAA SC	5 LVGMC LV PFLAG GLOSS RAC	6 SPECTRUM MCC HAVEN FW-WDIY	7 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	8 GLOSS Bowling	9 GLOSS RAC REN
10 MCC Gloss Tennis UUCLV GLOSS MOW WDIY AllSouls	11 RAA	12 GLOSS RAC LVGMC Kurtz	13 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG MCC	14 RAA P PFLAG B PFLAG	15	16 WDIY GLOSS RAC
17 MCC Interweave GLOSS Tennis Gloss Tennis AllSouls	18 RAA Reading Pride MTG	19 R PFLAG GLOSS RAC LVGMC	20 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	21 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	22	23 WDIY GLOSS RAC
24 UUCLV WDIY GLOSS Tennis MCC AllSouls	25 RAA	26 GLOSS RAC LVGMC	27 FW-WDIY SPECTRUM	28 RAA	29	30 WDIY GLOSS RAC

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449
www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley,
 PA 18002

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of
 Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church
 Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride
 Festival) 610.770.6200, email:
<info@prideglv.org>, www.prideglv.org

Progressive Students Alliance -
www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatsa.htm

Quakers-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte
 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.
RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday &
 Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the
 Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline:
 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearluca@msn.com

Ren- Renaissance Transgender Assoc.,
 Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading

www.readingpridecelebration.org

SC Sanctuary Counseling:GBT Support

Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old

Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-

385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com

Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned

Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA

610-685-0888

UULV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424

Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449,

VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee

Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS

SANCTUARY COUNSELING-

1ST & 3RD MONDAY

READING PRIDE MTG - 3RD MONS

LYGMC REHEARSALS - TUES

READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES

ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES

LV HAVEN - WEDS

READING SPECTRUM - WEDS

MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS

FRANK WHELAN WDIY - WEDS

POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS

BUCKS CTY PFLAG - 3RD THUR

MCCLV 20-30'S - LAST THURS

GLOSS RAC-BALL-TUES & SAT

GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS

GLOSS BOWLING- 2ND FRI

MCCLV POTLUCK- LAST SUN

ALL SOULS - SUNS

LV BEARS - 1ST SAT

RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT

INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY

GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS

NOV 1 - ALL SOULS READING

NOV 3 - ELECTION DAY

NOV 7 - MCCLV TRICKY TRAY

NOV 5-8 - DRACULA @PSU-BERKS

NOV 5-8 TOUCHSTONE

NOV 12 - MUHLENBERG BOOK

NOV 12-15 - TOUCHSTONE

NOV 12-15 - DRACULA @ PSU BERKS

NOV 14 - GOBAB

NOV 15 - POCONOS UUF

NOV 15 - CENTRAL PA

NOV 15 - FACT BINGO

NOV 20 - RAINBOW PLAYERS

NOV 21 - LYGMC CONCERT

DEC 6 - GLORA

NOV 28 - MCCLV

DEC 19 - GLORA ANNUAL DINNER

DEC 31 - GLORA

FEB 6 - 14TH EQUALITY WEEK

FEB 8 - LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY

Outreach to the LGBT Community

**when you're ready to quit
we're here to make your journey easier**

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- Nicotine Replacement Therapy
- PA Free Quitline - 1-800-QUIT.NOW
- For free local treatment visit MakeltYourLast.com or call 1-866-974-QUIT (7848)



Partnership for a TobaccoFree Northeast PA does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, handicap or disability.



GLBT Elders Panel at MCC in

October with

Ed Robison, DJ Landis, Trish Sullivan,

Moderator Rev. Beth Goudy,

Micki Torres, and Paula Gonzales



Dave Moyer and Vicky

Kistler accept an award

from MCCLV for the

Allentown Health Dept.



Adrian Shanker and

Sharon Glassman accept

an MCC award for the

Civic Theatre



RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY THE NEW TV SEASON

So, recently we had a rainy day where we just sat in and caught up on TV shows we had recorded. My pick for Best New TV Comedy? In a word: Cougar Town. So, it's two words. The important thing is my favorite Friend, Courtney Cox, is back on the small screen in a series worthy of her neurotic persona. The show is well scripted and acted with a really great supporting cast. I have laughed out loud a few times during each episode. Catch it on abc.com.

For Best Musical (like there's more than one) you should be watching GLEE. Decent acting, pretty good lip-synching, usually corny music selections, good choreography, great scripts and the sublime Jane Lynch.

Best Outrageous Drama (and I use that word very loosely) and Gary's favorite new show is the Melrose Place reboot. It's over the top, unbelievable and poorly acted. Just like it's predecessor! That show's savior, Heather Locklear, is slated to guest star soon. Remember she "guest starred" for 10 seasons on the original. Really, what else is she doing? Aside from Marcia Cross and Doug Savant (both on Desperate Housewives) what are any of them doing? I'm not sure what to think about the re-booting of TV shows. Especially if the producers are going to go out of their way to NOT improve on the original.

But to prove that original shows can be as bad or worse than reboots you need to look no further than NBC's much hyped "comedy" Community. Yuck! And, I love Joel McHale from E! network's The Soup. Unfunny and forced. I say skip it. The first episode of The Vampire Diaries looked like a note by note rip off of the big screen version of Twilight, only with brighter colors and more appealing actors. The Office, 30 Rock, Cash Cab and My Life on the D List are always good.

Share your opinions with me at stl327@hotmail.com. That was your TV update. Use this information wisely. Or ignore it altogether. Either way, I wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving!!

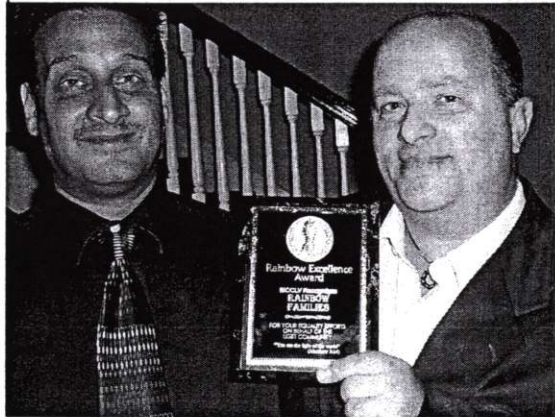


AN HONOR TO ALL RAINBOW FAMILIES

On Friday October 16th, we were fortunate to be guests at the Metropolitan Community Church's 25th anniversary and awards banquet. We were extremely honored to be presented with the Rainbow Service Award on behalf of PA Diversity Network's Lehigh Valley Rainbow Families group. Humbled and with pride we accepted that award, truly, on behalf of all GLBT families. If it weren't for those families there would be no need or purpose for our group. Rainbow Families is a group open to all GLBT parents and children, their friends, family, and supporters. Our goal is to provide interaction and communication, share stories and advice, and plan safe and fun events where we can meet and enjoy time with other diverse families.

Over the past five years of being a family comprised of two fathers and one son, we have had the opportunity to become friends with so many other similar families and so many so different. There is so much diversity in the family structure today, especially in the GLBT community. We have met lesbian and gay couples who have adopted children, those that are fostering children, those who have had children from previous heterosexual relationships, and those who are conceiving naturally themselves or with a surrogate. There are families that have both adopted and fostered, those that have children from previous relationships and that have had some together one way or another as well. Some gay and lesbian parents who adopted have chosen to adopt internationally, others domestically, some adopting special needs children, and others adopting across all racial boundaries. We have found these families have two things in common. An intense desire to be parents and lots of love for their children.

Not many lesbian and gay families happen accidentally. Most are the result of intense planning that usually comes from years of dreaming, saving money, and jumping through countless legal hoops. With all the effort put into starting a family and the years of hard work we impose on ourselves when becoming a parent, it is obvious that we've wanted to be parents. And good parents we are. Every parent deserves some sort of recognition, which is why there is a Mother's Day and a Father's Day. But a gay or lesbian parent deserves special recognition. As such, we want to share the Rainbow Service award with all the GLBT parents everywhere. And, a great big thank you to MCCLV for all of your support.



PDN'S RAINBOW FAMILIES RECEIVES AWARD FROM MCCLV

**PLEASE PAY YOUR 2010!
 PA DIVERSITY NETWORK DUES**
**PA DIVERSITY NETWORK IS THE LARGEST GLBT
 PA ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION
 ORGANIZATION IN PA, WORKING FOR YOUR
 RIGHTS EVERY DAY!**

IN THE LAST YEAR, HERE'S WHAT PDN HAS DONE FOR YOU:

1. **Produced and circulated** a full year of the Valley Gay Press - totaling 12,000 copies that were read by 30,000 people. Direct mailed to hundreds of homes every month (this month to 1600 homes). Allowing dozens of local not-for-profit advocacy organizations a free venue to circulate information about their events. PDN also circulates important community news.
2. **Hosted or participated in over 30** community events this year, including the PDN Awards Celebration, Rainbow Family events, community entertainment, and forums.
3. **Provided direct information** on GLBT issues to hundreds of community members who contacted PDN via the Info-line, email, or by calling the PDN office.
4. **Provided the PA Diversity Network Web Site**, the largest GLBT advocacy web site in the State of PA - with over 300 GLBT resource listings including doctors, lawyers, therapists, groups, and clubs. Provides everything from up-to-date community reports, to civil rights information, to book reviews, to program information, a Facebook PDN group with 650 members and much more.
5. **Advocated for people who were victims** of GLBT discrimination on a case by case basis.
6. **Created and presented over a dozen presentations** on GLBT Civil Rights, History, and Issues. Presentations included those at: Susquehanna U., Kutztown U. and Reading Community College, GLBT community orgs, Government venues, and Berks County Juvenile Detention Center at the request of GLBT youth residents.
7. **Continued to produce, present, and display** the national award winning PA Diversity Network Photo Project - to help educate and lobby for GLBT relationship rights. Nearly 800 local people are now in this project. This year, the entire project was presented in ten different venues.

**PA DIVERSITY
 NETWORK
 IS FUNDED BY
 GRASSROOTS
 MEMBERSHIPS
 AND DONATIONS
 FROM PEOPLE
 LIKE YOU**

**PLEASE PAY YOUR
 2010 DUES**

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker**PASSAGE OF THE FEDERAL HATE CRIMES BILL**

Like most Queer Americans, I too was excited when my twitter account buzzed about the passage of the Federal Hate Crimes Act. It has been more than eleven years since the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, and in that time span, more than fifty youth under age 30 were murdered because of their gender identity or expression (not counting those murdered because of their sexual orientation.) Time had clearly passed for Congress to send this common-sense legislation to the White House for final approval. And better yet, the bill includes protections based on "Gender Identity" unlike when Barney Frank, Nancy Pelosi, and the Human Rights Campaign attempted to pass a gays-only ENDA just two years ago with the premise that gender identity protections "would never pass in the Senate." The knowledge that Obama had made it a campaign pledge to sign this into law should have solidified a feeling of victory among every Queer activist.

The Hate Crimes bill was the first bill I ever lobbied Congress on. In high school, I took a trip with my synagogue to Capitol Hill and I met with Congresswoman Nita Lowey (NY-19) and spoke to her specifically about the Hate Crimes bill. I have been passionate about the passage of this legislation for as long as I have been politically engaged. But I feel that we deserved better by our elected Congress and newly elected President than to have the first federal LGBT civil rights bill EVER signed into law, come attached to legislation that expands funds for war. Oh yeah, that's the part that our national organizations didn't mention in their action alerts about the bill. Were you aware that the landmark Matthew Shepard act was attached as an amendment to the Department of Defense budget? Military spending. We just asked our members of Congress to support...Military spending...during an unpopular war. This is unheard of.

There has always been a connection between equal rights and ending war. It is no coincidence that 1st Wave feminists like Helen Keller spent much time protesting the first world war. During the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s Rev. King and Bayard Rustin forcefully spoke out against the US involvement in the Vietnam War.

So the strong history of the connection between civil rights and peace has been broken. The first major LGBT civil rights bill was passed, long overdue, but it was passed along with expanded war spending - and none of the national LGBT leaders posed any questions.

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE PRESENTS: THE TEMPEST

By William Shakespeare; Adapted by Debra Hecht; Directed by Jonathan David Martin with Jim Calder; Performed by the Touchstone Ensemble Touchstone teams up with an old friend, Jim Calder, to collaborate on an adaptation of William Shakespeare's The Tempest: an irreverent take on Prospero and his magical island (3 actors, 10 characters, and 1 disembodied spirit). First seen in Florence, Italy, this new production traveled the Atlantic to receive its US premier in NYC last fall. Now, the Touchstone Ensemble takes on this imaginative and physically inspired ninety-minute rendition of Shakespeare's fantastical island tale! Celebrate the art of theatre with this feat of dramatic wonderment for the whole family.

Nov. 5-8 & 12-15; Thurs. - Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm
Tickets: \$25/\$15 for students or seniors; Thurs., Nov. 5th only is Pay What You Will at the door. Tickets available in advance through www.touchstone.org or by calling 610-867-1689. You can also purchase tickets at the door; the box office opens one hour before curtain. 321 E. 4th St., Bethlehem, 18015.

OUT HISTORY MONTH PIONEER

Twentieth century composer John Cage pushed the boundaries of traditional music, experimenting with sound, environment and audience perception. His avant-garde work influenced music, painting, dance, performance art and poetry.

"I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas," said Cage. "I'm frightened of the old ones."

VALLEY GAY PRESSweb site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Braddy

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Braddy, Patricia Sullivan, Donnie

Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby,

Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker,

Phil Healing, AJA Lyons and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns, articles, and cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation or gender identity of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church LV

930 N. Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

Touchstone Theatre in Bethlehem

Many Libraries in Berks County,

Allentown Main Library

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),

Reading Community Theatre -

11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA SPECTRUM

GLOSS, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center

Reading Area Community College Library

Many area GSAs in High Schools and Colleges

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamond Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading

Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road,

Douglasville

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To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email:

info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP.

Some restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

10

Name/s _____

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City _____

State _____ zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$20

☐ Family dues \$25

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution
Make checks payable to PDN. ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

**PLEASE PAY YOUR
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES
JUST \$20 / \$25
PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY
PAYING YOUR DUES NOW**

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 400 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2009 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**PAY YOUR PDN
DUES NOW!
AND THEY WILL BE GOOD
THROUGH JAN. 2010.
YOU CAN PAY THEM ONLINE
AT PADIVERSITY.ORG**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

**HUD PROGRAMS
TO ENSURE
NON-BIAS TO GLBT**

The National Center for Transgender Equality praised the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its announcement in October, that it will ensure that its programs are available to all, including LGBT people. The announcement is historic, since HUD is the first federal agency so far to officially propose guidelines that would explicitly address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

NCTE's Executive Director, Mara Keisling commented, "Housing is a basic right and a basic human need and the numbers show just how blatant the discrimination is that transgender people face every single day. Today's actions by HUD will make a difference in a tremendous number of lives. We are so pleased that the Obama administration continues to express through both action and words that it is committed to making sure that all federal government programs are accessible to all people."

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editor Liz Bradbury with
questions about GLBT issues.



11

SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner



IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Faithful Readers, I have a serious column to write this month. Maybe some of you have read the internet stories about what's happening with the GLBT community in certain Middle Eastern countries.

Gay Iranians will hold private house parties for their friends. The parties are raided by the police. All of the men are arrested and taken to prison. Once in prison they will be either raped by other prisoners or the guards. When they are finally released from prison there is no one to turn to for comfort. The local government won't help them. The clergy won't help them. Their own families won't help them. In fact, they are often the ones doing the persecution.

In June of 2008 a new international association was formed to help the GLBT community in Iran and other countries. ORAM stands for Organization for Refugee, Asylum & Migration. Supplying them with legal representation, the organization has directly helped fifty refugees. ORAM also publishes press releases and advocates to national governments and NGOs. Indirectly the organization has helped many many more.

I spoke with Neil Grungras, the founder and executive director, who very articulately and passionately told me about ORAM's mission. "Our purpose is to educate, advocate, and represent GLBT refugees. This is a field that has been swept under the rug by most governments and international bodies."

I asked how many GLBT refugees are there in the world? He said "No one has ever been able to take an accurate count but 85 countries in the world criminalize homosexuality and in 7 of them it carries the death penalty. The number is probably in the tens of thousands."

"ORAM has worked with the UN High Commission for Refugees on this issue. International bodies need to be made aware of the special problems facing our community. American GLBT activist groups need to be made aware of the plight of the refugees also."

ORAM is always looking for volunteers. Check out the website www.oraminternational.org

"SCOTTY IN THE CITY" ALTERNATES MONTHLY WITH "A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING"

MCCLV'S TRICKY TRAY BASKET RAFFLE NOVEMBER 7, 2009

AMERICAN CLUB OF COPLAY, 300 CHERRY ST., COPLAY.

ADVANCE TICKETS - \$20 (non-refundable).

AT-THE-DOOR - \$25 INCLUDES: BRUNCH & STARTER TICKETS PACK. OVER 100 GREAT PRIZES INCLUDING: 42" FLAT SCREEN TV, GARMIN GPS, KINDLE E-BOOK, \$500 CASH, KARAOKE SYSTEM, ROOMBA ROBOT VACUUM, TOSHIBALAPTOP. Contact church office @ (610) 709-8800 or email maureen.gillmeyer@mcclv.org for tickets or more information. DOORS OPEN AT 9:00AM

MORE ON THE UNIV. OF ALABAMA

From Pam Spalding's Blog: Note to Red State legislators that are dragging their feet, citing biblical texts to condemn the homos...your budgets are in the hole, your tax base is shot, and you're continuing to ensure your state's third class status by clinging to homophobia. It's time to let it go. --- So what changed at UAB? A documentary by Jade Delisle, "One Closed Door After Another." Faculty and staff were interviewed and they candidly discussed the exodus of staff from the institution, and missing out on superior candidates UAB tried to recruit who looked at the lack of support for same-sex partners and walked.

PA Diversity Network gets questions about GLBT issues almost every day, here are some that came in this month:

Dear WTA: My ex and I got a civil union about 4 years ago. But now we have broken up. How do I get out of the civil union so I can go on with my life? **Signed, Single Again.**

Dear Single, Well, you have to get a divorce and in order to do that you'll have to establish residency in the state where you got the CU by living there for 6 months and after that, apply for a divorce. I'm not a lawyer, but it is somewhat possible that you could establish residency in another state that recognizes your Civil Union, like NJ. Sounds like you need the advice of a lawyer who understands GLBT issues. See the legal resource page of the padiversity.org web site. **LB**

Dear WTA: How do I tell my conservative parents that I'm gay? Whenever I talk to them I start to cry. I'm afraid I'll be too upset to actually say what I want to say. **Signed, Adult Child**

Dear AC, We aren't counselors, you can find GLBT Friendly ones in the therapist resource section at the PA Diversity web site. You might want to write down what you want to tell your parents before hand. And if you really feel that facing them will just make you break down in tears, you might want to email them your message and then talk to them after that. PFLAG can help your parents. Find PFLAG contact info at the PDN web site also. One thing about coming out to someone, you only have to do it once. Then you work from there. **LB**

Dear WTA: I'm pleased that the Federal Hate Crimes bill has been passed through Congress, but how do I address people who say - "All crimes are Hate Crimes" and, "This bill gives gays special rights?" **Signed Debater**

Dear D, First of all, all crime is not hate crime, even when you are talking about homicide. There's premeditated homicide, accidental, second degree, and even self-defense. Each one of these is punished a different way. Hate crime is terrorism, designed to terrify and impact an entire class of people, not just the target. Certainly we can all see that a car bombing of a crowded store is different from an old guy who falls asleep and runs into a store. Both are horrible, but the crimes are totally different, and the societal impact is completely different.

It's important to note that there is already a Federal Hate Crimes Law enacted in 1994. It includes the classes of race, religion, and national origin, but not sexual orientation and gender identity. However, federal hate crimes statistics show that the mostly likely hate crimes happen based first on race, second on religion, third of sexual orientation and gender identity, fourth on national origin. But sexual orientation and gender identity are not covered by the 1994 law, while the others are. The Matthew Shepard Act, would add sexual orientation and gender to the list already covered, it's not special rights. **LB**

Dear WTA, I still don't see why you have to overturn DOMA, why can't Civil Unions be enough? **Signed, Straight Ally**

Dear SA, Civil Unions have been done and they didn't work. Every state that has had Civil Unions has found them inadequate to provide equal rights and has moved - most successfully - to provide same-sex marriage equality. DOMA (the federal "defense of marriage act") disallows federal recognition of tens of thousands of legal same-sex marriages preformed in those states. So the issue now is: All married couples deserve federal rights. The only way to achieve that federal equality for all families is to overturn DOMA. **LB**

POP QUIZ 12

Error in last month's Quiz. Judaism is indeed older than Christianity -- Only one person pointed this mistake out to us.

Special thanks to guest quizmaster Jonna Finocchio for this month's quiz.

1. ____ was never a couple on the L Word: A. Dana & Alice B. Bette & Alice C. Bette & Tina D. Shane & Dana

2. How does Erin Daniels' character, Dana Fairbanks, die in season three? A. Brain tumor B. Breast cancer C. Car accident D. She was murdered

3. ____ was not an L Word Guestbian. A. Lisa Edelstein B. Camryn Manheim C. Rosanna Arquette D. Sandra Bernhard

4. The character ____ was a self-pronounced bisexual. A. Shane B. Alice C. Bette D. Helena

5. In what season was Angelica born?

6. ____ was the club bought by Dawn Denbo and her "lover Cindy." A. Milk B. The Planet C. Girl Bar D. She-Bar

7. Which of the following characters did Papi not sleep with, before mysteriously disappearing after season four? A. Kit B. Carmen C. Helena D. Alice

8. Which character created "The Chart"? A. Alice B. Bette C. Shane D. Dana

9. ____ offers Shane money to pose for a billboard. A. Calvin Klein B. Hugo Boss C. Jockey D. Nautica

10. Where do Bette and Tina plan to relocate to at the end of season 6? A. San Francisco B. Chicago C. New York D. Boston

1. D 2. B 3. A 4. B 5. 2 6. D 7. B 8. A 9. B 10. C

PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK THANKS THE UNITED WAY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN WHO CHOSE PDN FOR THEIR DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS!!!

QUOTE #1

"I would rather regret the things I have done than the things I have not." -- Lucille Ball

QUOTE #2

"I will no longer seek to slow down the witness to inclusiveness by pretending that there is some middle ground between prejudice and oppression."
-- Episcopal Bishop John Shelby

QUOTE #3

"Throughout history, we have only moved forward when society has distinguished between traditional values and valueless traditions." --U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-CO (one of the three openly gay members of Congress)

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLSS

LEPOCO

GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theatre 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

LV Turning Point

Muhlenberg Theater Association

LV Crime Victims Council

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Baskalah

LV Progressive Students' Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Old Allentown Preservation Association

The Center for Animal Health and Welfare

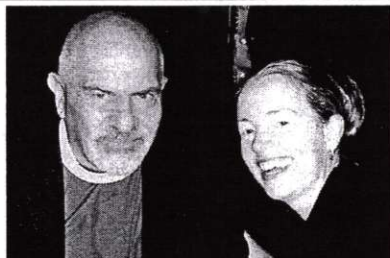
WDIY

All Souls Ecumenical Church in Reading

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Freezing rain didn't dampen the spirits of PA Diversity's Women's 5K Race Team - Fr. Left: Heather Knieriem, Mayra Hernandez, Renae Bennett, Team Capt. Anne Huey, Liz Bradbury. Also on the Team were Charlotte Boles, Dina Billowitch, Brenda Welsh, Tracy Denton (who ran 5 miles in less than 9 minutes miles), and Brunch Cook Trish Sullivan.



Rev. Troy Perry, guest speaker at MCCLV's 25th Anniv. Banquet with Rev. Beth Goudy

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

REVIEW BY A'JA LYONS

LOIS LENZ LESBIAN SECRETARY BY MONICA NOLAN - Everything old is new again - vintage t-shirts, old school baby names, and nearly every film being made is a re-make or a half-assed sequel. There are a select few that can truly re-create the voice of certain characters of a certain era, and Monica Nolan is one of the select few. Chicago born Nolan, author of "Lois Lenz, Lesbian Secretary", has written a lovely pulp fiction novel reminiscent of those 1950's spicy, trashy, guilty pleasure fiction pieces.

As the title says, Nolan's novel is about Lois Lenz, a wet behind the ears baby dyke who takes a coveted secretarial position at Sather & Stirling in Bay City, and lives in a nearby run down boardinghouse, far from her small town suburbanite upbringing. The other women in the boardinghouse are so much different than Lois is used to. They have their little secrets that Lois is too green to see, but Lois ends up with a few secrets of her own.

Though it does not fall into the hard-edged genre most associated with pulp fiction, "Lois Lenz, Lesbian Secretary" IS very much a lesbian pulp novel. A titillating art cover, about and for women, featuring a love story between women, and has fairly well-developed characters. Lesbian pulp novels are such an immense part of lesbian history and formed many women's lesbian identities.

And unlike pulp novels of the 50's and 60's, Nolan's novels can be found at local libraries and bookstores and even Barnes & Noble. For the timid and/or neophyte, try Amazon.com or indiebound.org. Either way you get one, feel no shame, embarrassment, or fear in reading such a book. I certainly don't.